



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10 HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE

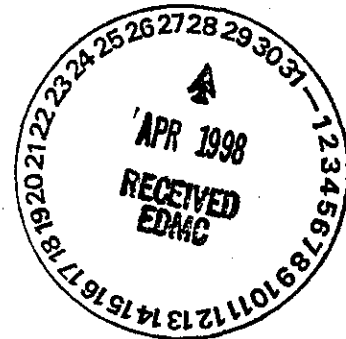
712 SWIFT BOULEVARD, SUITE 5

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

April 17, 1998

0049090

Thomas W. Woods  
Yakama Indian Nation  
1933 Jadwin Avenue  
Richland, WA 99352



Subject: Letter to Congressional Staff re the CRCIA.

Yesterday I received the enclosed letter addressed to Senator Ron Wyden's staff and under your signature. I understand that at a March 25th meeting that I was unable to attend, the participating Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) team members decided to create a chair and named you the chairman. I also understand that a subgroup drafted and a week later finalized the enclosed letter.

Neither I nor anyone else within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was cognizant or participated in any of the mentioned events. Unfortunately I had previous commitments for both meetings where these events took place. None of the participants notified anyone from EPA what had transpired at those meetings, sought EPA input, or informed us of the subject letter. I was surprised to receive a copy of the enclosed letter a week after it was sent and see my name and the EPA listed as a party to the letter. The EPA did not participate in the decision to write the letter nor its content or authorship.

You have not been authorized to directly represent or even imply representation of the EPA. What you have done is extremely inappropriate. In the future please do not represent our agency without our concurrence. The subject letter is a misrepresentation of EPA.

Sincerely,

Laurence E. Gadbois  
Environmental Scientist

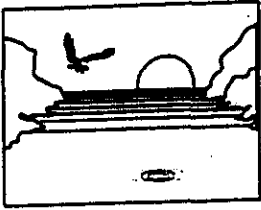
Enclosure: as stated.

Copy: CRCIA Team Members:

Greg deBruler, HAB  
Stuart Harris, CTUIR  
David Holland, Ecology  
Steven Sautter, ODOE  
John Stanfill, NPT

Steve Alexander, Ecology  
Jeff Breckel, Ecology

Brian Foley, DOE  
Rich Holten, DOE  
Russell Jim, YIN  
K. Mike Thompson, DOE  
Randy Smith, EPA  
Mike Wilson, Ecology  
Administrative Record H-0-3



# THE CRCIA MANAGEMENT TEAM

of the

## Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment

April 7, 1998

**Stuart G. Harris**

*Confederated Tribes of the  
Umatilla Indian Reservation*

**Laurence E. Gadbois**

*U. S. Environmental  
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**Gregory L. de Bruler**

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**David P. Holland**

*Washington State  
Department of Ecology*

**Lino G. Niccoli**

**Wade H. Riggsbee**

**Thomas W. Woods**

*Yakama Indian Nation*

**Joshua Scheinkman**

**David Verardo**

**Staff to Senator Ron Wyden**

**717 Hart Senate Office Building**

**Washington, D. C. 20510**

Messrs. Scheinkman and Verardo,

The CRCIA Management Team is grateful for the interest and support you have shown in the matter of causing the Department of Energy to conduct meaningful assessments of the effects Hanford's wastes can be expected to have on the Columbia River and the region's people, business economies, and environment. We are seeing a growing conviction among knowledgeable scientists, managers and the general public that DOE has been making serious cleanup and disposal decisions with no understanding of the effects of those decisions on the region downstream of Hanford.

Since we last talked, official copies have been released of the enclosed document which contains not only our "Requirements for A Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment" (see Part II), but also contains the just-completed "Screening Assessment" of the river's current condition (see especially pages xxi. and I-5.65 through 5.67). This Screening Assessment was performed by Battelle for DOE and, inadequate as it is for estimating the impending effects of DOE's cleanup decisions, it is by a wide margin the most complete assessment to date.

The CRCIA Team would like to have the opportunity to make a presentation to you, other people and other staffs who you feel would be interested and, of course, to Senator Wyden if his schedule permits. We propose that the presentation would focus on the Columbia River as the medium through which DOE's decisions will affect the "region," that is, about 1.5 million people directly dependent on the river downstream of Hanford and another 2.5 million indirectly dependent upon the river. We would also provide generally non-technical background on this critical assessment, DOE's opposition to it, and the inadequacies of the vadose-groundwater analysis being proposed by DOE. Technical discussions can also be handled to whatever depth you may choose.

We would be pleased to respond to your convenience, but if May 6 is available it would work well for us.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Woods  
Chairman

HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE

APR 15 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY

cc: CRCIA Team members